

Lakota Lullaby

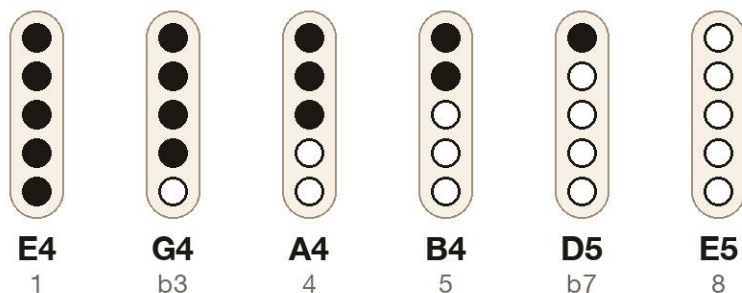
Traditional Lakota lullaby · tab for 5-hole native flute · key of E · with lyrics



Exactly what I play in the video, note for note. Written for a Low E flute (lowest note E4); the fingerings are the same on any 5-hole flute, only the pitch moves with your key.

Six phrases, one breath each, slow. The time under each number is where that phrase starts in the video.

The six notes · how to read the tab



● filled = covered
○ ring = open
top hole = nearest your mouth
E — — line after the name = hold it
' = breathe, the phrase is over
1 b3 4 5 b7 8 = minor pentatonic

1
0:00

E — E D E — D B E D A D B —

Ah hí yé, yo hí eyá · Wé yeló eyá Ah I say, I say to you · I am speaking to you

2
0:07

E — B A G — E G E — E

Čhaŋté wašté hoksíla l-akhé ištíŋma My kind-hearted boy, go to sleep

3
0:14

E — E D E — D B E D A D B —

Ah hí yé, yo hí eyá · Ya wé yeló eyá Ah I say, I say to you · To you I am saying it

4
0:21

E — B A G — G — E —

Han'hépi kin wašté Tomorrow will be nice

5
0:28

E — B A G — A B D B —

Čhaŋté wašté hoksíla l-akhé ištíŋma My kind-hearted boy, go to sleep

6
0:35

E A G A G — A G G E —

Wé yeló eyá I am speaking to you

Lyrics

Ah hí yé, yo hí eyá

Wé yeló eyá

Ah hí yé, yo hí eyá

Ya wé yeló eyá

Čhaŋté wašté hoksíla l-akhé ištíŋma

Han'hépi kin wašté

Wé yeló eyá

Ah I say, I say to you

I am speaking to you

Ah I say, I say to you

To you I am saying it

My kind-hearted boy, go to sleep

Tomorrow will be nice

I am speaking to you

Traditional Lakota lullaby. Lyrics as sung by Robert Tree Cody; English translation: Musicians Teach Music.

The flute line is my own arrangement of the sung melody: the words sit under the phrase

they belong to, not one syllable per note. Tab transcribed from my own recording (2026).